Data Submitted (UTC 11): 7/20/2017 6:00:00 AM First name: francis Last name: preston Organization:

Title:

Comments: I am opposed to mining operations in the headwaters of the South Fork of the Salmon River. I value the South Fork for its outstanding recreational opportunities and do not want to see the health of that watershed take steps backwards with increased mining in the area. I have seen the South Fork healing over time since mining and logging changed the landscape and decreased the number of salmon that return to the river, and it scares me to think that we could once again harm such a wonderful area.

Over the years I have enjoyed the South Fork over a wide variety of river levels, from low water in the late fall to peak flows during spring runnoff. I know how unique this river system is to have such long undisturbed sections of healthy river, and a long season of boatable flows. I have always felt lucky to live so near this amazing place, and when I think of the South Fork, I remember back to the numerous times I have seen big game animals, from eagles to deer to elk to bears.

Please consider my voice as one of opposition to the mining that could damage such a cherished wild place.